

**DRAFT**  
**KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2005**  
**EXCHANGE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM 6A**

**Members Present:** Helen Nilon, James Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Gwendolyn Williams, Eugene Wan, Nancy Witherbee (awaiting confirmation)

**Members Absent:** Melody Cecilia James (excused)

**Guests Present:** Joan Clement, KCASAAB Liaison; Loran Inman, VCC

**Staff Present:** Steve Collins, Lenore Meyer, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

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**I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:37p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Helen Nilon:** NAMI Eastside will hold a forum on Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Evergreen Hospital in Kirkland. A panel of speakers affected by a serious mental illness will share their stories and their hope. The panel will include young adults, adolescents, children, sibling and parent of youth/adult with mental illness and adult with mental illness.

**Eleanor Owen:** Hoffman House Three is seeking a home in Greater Seattle to be converted to a home for 6-7 women. These women will be trained to do remodeling and designing of houses.

**Ron Sterling:** There will be a Mental Health Stakeholders Meeting on Monday in Olympia at DSHS office at 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to talk about the funding impact and to take a look at the budget for the second part of the biennium. Consumers and stakeholders are invited to speak about the implementation of the plan.

**III. MINUTES**

James Nobles moved which was seconded by Ron Sterling to approve the July 12, 2005 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

#### A. Agenda for Board Organizational/Orientation Meeting

The board organizational/orientation meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 will take the place of the regular board meeting. The meeting will start at 4:30pm and will end between 7:00pm or 7:30pm. The following items will be included in the retreat agenda:

- Updated orientation packet - Jean Robertson will walk the board through the updated orientation materials.
- Firm up Liaison and Committee assignments of board members.
- Policy and funding with flow chart.
- Roles and Responsibilities.
- Review of Robert's Rules of Order.

#### B. Memorial Garden Stone

Eugene Wan recommended sponsoring a cobblestone in the Recovery Garden. The minimal cost of a stone at \$35 will be divided among board members who are able and willing to contribute. Eugene stated that the message to be inscribed on the stone will be dedicated to those who fall between the cracks of the health care system and to provide publicity or awareness of the existence of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board.

After a brief discussion, James Nobles made a motion which was seconded by Helen Nilon to accept the recommendation for the board to sponsor a cobblestone in the Recovery Garden. The motion was approved.

#### C. Discussion – Board Meeting at Eastside Area

Board Chair Sterling opened the floor for discussion on the issue of holding board meetings on the Eastside. The idea of holding one or two board meetings outside of Seattle area was received favorably by board members present. The proposal for out-of-Seattle area meeting is intended to provide a greater exposure for the board in the eastside and south end of King County.

Eleanor Owen recommended creating a sub-committee to discuss in detail the logistics of the meeting. The sub-committee is composed of Eleanor Owen, Allan Panitch, Helen Nilon, and Nancy Dow-Witherbee.

#### **IV. VACATION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS PRESENTATION**

Jean Robertson stated that at the last board meeting, the vacation of criminal records project was brought up. Some board members had questions regarding the project that were left unanswered so it was decided to invite Steve Collins and Lenore Meyer to respond to any questions the board members might have. The following is question/answer portion of the meeting:

Q: How feasible is this project to wipe out data records of clients?

A: We know of clients who have gone through this process and have benefited. It is like any other legal process. There are forms to fill out and stipulations that must be fulfilled.

Q: What offenses are not eligible for removal from record?

A: Class A felonies are not eligible. Class A felonies are sentences of twenty years or more upon the first offense. Those who are eligible are Class B felonies, persons sentenced from 8 years to 20 years with no crime committed for 10 years after the date the applicant was released, and Class C felonies, people who have a sentence of less than 8 years and have been in the community for five years with no crimes committed after the applicant was released.

Q: Does it affect juvenile conviction?

A: Yes. Juvenile records are sealed not vacated. Only law enforcement could access their records.

Vacating criminal convictions would enable our clients to legally say they have never been convicted of a crime. It would remove barriers to employment, housing, and the right to vote. Prospective employers and rental managers who do background checks will find no convictions in these clients' past because the courts have ordered the conviction to be deleted.

Those clients who would benefit from the Vacation of Criminal Conviction Process are clients with convictions such as forgery, theft, malicious mischief (property damage), and drug crimes. Those convictions not eligible are serious assault, robbery, arson, sex offences, and homicide.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is observing how this project will turn out. This project brings hope to a lot of people.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee – Eleanor Owen**

Eleanor is not aware of any committee meeting scheduled this month. Ron expressed displeasure at frequent cancellation of the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee meetings.

### **B. Nominations Update – Helen Nilon**

Three applications are out. One applicant plans to submit application after summer. Helen encouraged everyone to recruit people from their area.

### **C. Quality Council – Helen Nilon**

Helen expressed her opinion that it is time for the Recovery Initiatives Committee to sunset or rope back to one committee since it is a subcommittee of Quality Council.

### **D. Recovery Initiatives Committee – Eleanor Owen**

Copies of the Recovery Charter were provided to board members. The board reviewed and discussed each item in the charter and the rationale for having a separate committee from the Quality Council.

Eleanor Owen moved and seconded by Eugene Wan to approve the Charter. The motion was put into vote – five “Yes” and one “No.”

## **VI. STAFF REPORT – Jean Robertson**

### **A. State-Only Allocation**

The impact of the state-only fund allocation to King County is a deficit of \$11 million. The state-only funds shortfall is a domino effect of the new CMS rules regarding the use of Medicaid savings. Medicaid and non-Medicaid funds are now separate. As a result, there is no flexibility in using Medicaid savings. The Department continues to meet with legislators to bring to their attention the impact of this action.

### **B. New State Contracts**

We have three new State contracts this year: PIHP, State only contract, and Federal block grants. The Federal Block grants will be presented to the board for

review. It will pass the planning council. The money from this contract will be used to supplement services.

The funding for Children Families in Common (CFIC) is gone. The dedicated staff of CFIC will be honored at the Department's All Staff Meeting this week. The Children Mental Health Plan was based on what the Division learned from CFIC.

### **C. Recovery Plan Update**

The Division will submit the Recovery Plan and revised Recovery Ordinance to the Executive for September 8th or 15<sup>th</sup> briefing. The Division has also conducted discussions with providers. Much of the discussion was focused on consumer group. Jean would like for the Case Manager position to be brought to the level of Recovery Specialist.

### **D. Amendment to Board Composition**

A recent amendment to the law under SSB1290 passed in the 2005 legislative session specified law enforcement representation in particular on the Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB). Jean is drafting a letter of invitation to law enforcement to consider membership with MHAB. If board members know of anyone from law enforcement who might be interested to be a part of the advisory board, they are asked to refer them to Jean Robertson or Rhoda Naguit.

## **VII. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **James Nobles: Chronic Populations Action Council**

No report at this time.

### **Helen Nilon, SMH and partnership**

The Seattle Mental Health had their JCAHO audit. There was no Partnership Meeting last month.

### **Gwendolyn Williams: Therapeutic Health Services**

Gwen has not been attending THS' Board Meeting because it conflicts with our board meeting. She had asked THS Board to send her their meeting minutes, but has not heard from them to date.

**Eleanor Owen: Western State Hospital**

The hospital was visited by staff from Oregon State Hospital. They were impressed with the level of treatment provided by the hospital and the high staff morale. They plan to invite some legislators from Oregon to visit WSH in the future.

**VIII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS**

Copies of the document entitled Facts in 2005 about MH Employment will be sent to board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit  
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling  
Board Chair